II. AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A method for treating pain in humans for a time period of about 24 hours, comprising administering to a human patient at a dosing interval of about 24 hours, ~~preparing~~ a solid, controlled-release oral dosage form~~, the dosage form~~ comprising an analgesically effective amount of an opioid analgesic or a mixture of opioid analgesics or a salt thereof, ~~said opioid analgesic being~~ incorporated into ~~contained in~~ a controlled-release matrix, wherein the dissolution rate in vitro of the dosage form, when measured by the USP Paddle Method of U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII (1990) at 100 rpm at 900 ml aqueous buffer at pH 1.6 and 7.2 and at 37°C is from about 12.5% to about 42.5% (by wt) opioid released after 1 hour, from about 25% to about 65% (by wt) opioid released after 2 hours, from about 45% to about 85% (by wt) opioid released after 4 hours and greater than 60% (by wt) opioid released after 8 hours, the in-vitro release rate being substantially independent of pH in that a difference, at any given time, between an amount of opioid released at one pH and an amount released at any other pH, when measured in-vitro using the USP Paddle Method of U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII (1990) at 100 rpm in 900 ml aqueous buffer is no greater than 10%, the in-vitro release rate being chosen such that the peak plasma level of said opioid obtained in-vivo occurs at least 4 to about 8 hours after administration of the dosage form, said dosage form providing a duration of therapeutic effect of about 24 hours~~; and administering said dosage form to a human patient at a dosing interval of about 24 hours~~.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid analgesic is selected from the group consisting of hydromorphone, oxycodone, morphine, levorphanol, methadone, meperidine, heroin, dihydrocodeine, codeine, dihydromorphine, buprenorphine, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid analgesic comprises hydromorphone.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid analgesic comprises morphine.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid analgesic comprises oxycodone.

Claims 11-12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the ~~opioid is contained in a~~ controlled release matrix comprises ~~which includes~~ a polymer selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutically acceptable gum, an alkylcellulose, a cellulose ether, an acrylic resin, and mixtures of the foregoing.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the matrix further comprises a digestible substituted or unsubstituted C_8-C_{50} hydrocarbon.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said hydrocarbon is selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty alcohols, mineral oils, vegetable oils, waxes and mixtures of any of the foregoing.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said dosage form further comprises a polyalkyleneglycol.

Claims 17-19. (Cancelled)

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the dosage form

provides blood levels of hydromorphone over 500 pg/ml about 12 hours after administration to a human patient, and at least about 300 pg/ml about 24 hours after administration to a human patient.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid consists of from about 4 mg to about 64 mg hydromorphone.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid consists of from about 10 mg to about 400 mg oxycodone.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid consists of from about 15 mg to about 800mg morphine.

Claim 24. (New) A method for treating pain in humans for a time period of about 24 hours, comprising administering to a human patient at a dosing interval of about 24 hours, a solid, controlled-release oral dosage form consisting essentially of an analgesically effective amount of an opioid analgesic or a mixture of opioid analgesics or a salt thereof, incorporated into a controlled-release matrix, wherein the dissolution rate in vitro of the dosage form, when measured by the USP Paddle Method of U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII (1990) at 100 rpm at 900 ml aqueous buffer at pH 1.6 and 7.2 and at 37°C is from about 12.5% to about 42.5% (by wt) opioid released after 1 hour, from about 25% to about 65% (by wt) opioid released after 2 hours, from about 45% to about 85% (by wt) opioid released after 4 hours and greater than 60% (by wt) opioid released after 8 hours, the in-vitro release rate being substantially independent of pH in that a difference, at any given time, between an amount of opioid released at one pH and an amount released at any other pH, when measured in-vitro using the USP Paddle Method of U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII (1990) at 100 rpm in 900 ml aqueous buffer is no greater than 10%, the in-vitro release rate being chosen such that the peak plasma level of said opioid obtained in-vivo occurs at least 4 to about 8 hours after administration of the dosage form, said dosage form providing a duration of therapeutic effect of about 24 hours